



File Code: 3410

Date: October 3, 2006

Subject: 2006 Aerial Detection Survey

ORIGINAL

To: Clyde Thompson, Forest Supervisor, Monongahela National Forest

On June 29 and 30, 2006, Martin MacKenzie, Bill Oldland and Rod Whiteman of my Forest Health Protection staff conducted an aerial detection survey of the Monongahela National Forest (MNF). The survey was coordinated through and was flight followed by the MNF dispatcher Cameron Crisp. The purpose of this survey was to detect and sketchmap the location and intensity of areas affected by defoliating insects, diseases and weather-related damage.

The survey was conducted at 1000-1500 feet above ground level on parallel flight lines spaced 3 miles apart. The aircraft (N# 30266) was equipped with both an automated flight following system and a programmable FM aircraft radio. The radio was programmed with the frequencies of the MNF's repeaters and also with the national flight following frequency (168.650). As it turned out, communication with the dispatcher was more reliable when the MNF's repeater frequencies were used rather than the national flight following frequency.

I am pleased to repeat that no defoliation, disease, weather-related damage and or recent mortality (less than 2 years) were detected during the survey. Although some tree damage (primary branch breakage and to a lesser extent uprooting) occurred on the MNF from the snow storm of October 25, 2005, none of this damage was detected through the aerial survey. The areas damaged by the storm were too small and widely scattered to be detected by an aerial survey of this intensity.

Personnel from the MNF are reminded that they also have a responsibility for the detection of insect and disease outbreaks. All personnel should report insect defoliation, foliage discoloration and recent mortality to my office. With your help, through early detection, intervention tactics may be implemented before widespread damage occurs.

Please contact Rod Whiteman (304-285-1555) if you have any questions or comments about this survey.

JOHN HAZEL
Field Representative, MFO

Cc: District Ranger, Cheat RD
District Ranger, Gauley RD
District Ranger, Greenbrier RD
District Ranger, Marlinton & White Sulphur Springs RDs
District Ranger, Potomac RD
Glen Juergens, Silviculturist

